

Gary Joynor

Jackson Parish Watershed District

Post Office Box 398

Jonesboro, La. 71251

Date: January 26, 2022

Re: Opinion Request Concerning Mr. Lavelle Smith

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Gary Joynor and I am currently the Vice- President & Treasure of the Jackson Parish Watershed District. Our opinion requested is regarding Mr. Lavelle Smith former President of Jackson Parish Watershed District. Mr. Smith was a long term member and most recently President of the Jackson Parish Watershed District as of April 18th 2021. He has ask the JPWD if he could assist a contractor named Quin Ortego that mainly works on Caney Lake in Jackson Parish in obtaining legal descriptions and completing building permits for him. Mr. Smith claims this is not a paying position and that his just helping a friend. The current President of JPWD, Mr. Kent Hightower ask Mr. Smith to consult La Ethics Board and make sure there is no conflict and if there is no conflict from the Ethics Board, then we JPWD would not have any issue with his request. Mr. Smith allegedly claims he contacted the La Ethics Board Attorney on January 21st 2022 and the Attorney gave him Rules 1121. A 1 & 2 of which we are aware of after taking ethics training course. So we feel since, we received second hand information that is was in JPWD best interest to seek an Opinion from your respective board. The way we interpret what Mr. Smith is stating he plans to do for Mr. Ortego may be in conflict with 1121 A.1 (assisting another person) or (in appearance in connection with a transaction) since Mr. Smith was the acting President of Jackson Parish Watershed District as of April 1st 2021. Most recently as of Jan 25th 2022 Mr. Smith attempted to hand our Secretary of JPWD a completed Building Permit and a check for \$50.00 to cover the permit on behalf of Mr. Ortego. I do not have a copy of the permit Mr. Smith tried to give our Secretary since he refused to accept the permit and payment.

I am attaching documentation to prove Mr. Smith was President of JPWD as of April 1st 2021, in addition to email correspondence between Mr. Smith and Mr. Hightower regarding the subject matter of Mr. Smith requesting information from Board of Ethics.

In closing, we at the JPWD just want to make sure if Mr. Smith can assist Mr. Ortego with building permits and there is no conflict with the Louisiana Ethics Board.

Sincerely,



Gary Joynor

Vice President\Treasure JPWD

Jackson Parish Watershed Commission

Meeting Minutes for August 19th

Members present Gary Joynor, Jimmy Waggoner, Kent Hightower, Roy Barlow.

Members absent Wesley Harvey, Bert Brown, Daniel Ponder.

Meeting called to order by President Kent Hightower.

Invocation by Mr. Joynor.

There were no public comments.

Motion Mr. Barlow second Mr. Waggoner to approve minutes for the July 15th meeting Motion carried.

Motion Mr. Waggoner second Mr. Barlow to approve payment of bills motion carried

Motion Mr. Barlow second Mr. Joynor to remove past board members Mr. Benson Bagwell, Lynn Tubb, and Don Denton from Peoples Bank of Chatham's checking account Motion Carried.

Motion Mr. Joynor second Mr. Waggoner to approve sea wall permit for Mr. Casey Goss Motion carried.

Motion Mr. Waggoner Second Mr. Joynor to approve resurface Ebenezer boat pier by A-1 Honey Do's for \$5500 Motion carried.

Discussed wooden fence post cap's at spillway parking lot and was tabled to next month's meeting.

Motion Mr. Waggoner second Mr. Barlow to approve 4 T Exteriors to wash down boat pier at spillway motion carried.

Motion Mr. Waggoner second Mr. Barlow to approve 4 T Exteriors to wash down two boat piers at Chatham Lake motion carried.

Motion Mr. Waggoner second Mr. Barlow to purchase materials to water seal both Spillway and Chatham Lake piers Motion carried.

Motion Mr. Barlow second Mr. Waggoner to approve all Duck blind permits.

Motion Mr. Joynor, second Mr. Barlow to approve the resignation of Mr. Burt Brown Motion carried.

Discuss annual boat pass for Duck blind permits Died lack of motion. ~~Motion Mr. Waggoner~~ second Mr. Barlow to elect Mr. Gary Joynor as Vice President Motion carried.

Motion Mr. Joynor second Mr. Barlow to adjourn motion carried.

Next meeting will be September 16th 2021

Minutes of the July 17th meeting

Mr. Hightower called meeting to order. Mr. Harvey gave the invocation. Members Present Mr. Barlow, Mr. Ponder, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Joiner, Mr. Waggoner, absent Mr. Brown. There were not any public comments. Captain Watson from the LDWF talked about the incidents with boats on Caney Lake this year. Jeff Sibley with the LDWF talked about the 2021 Vegetation Plan for Caney. Motion Mr. Barlow second Mr. Ponder to approve minutes for the June 17th meeting. Motion Mr. Harvey second Mr. Ponder approve payment of bills. Motion Mr. Waggoner second Mr. Ponder to approve Duck blind F-21 permit. Motion Mr. Waggoner second Mr. Harvey to appoint Mr. Joiner as Treasurer. Motion Mr. Barlow second Mr. Harvey to buy three new Buoys. Mr. Ponder volunteered to pressure wash Chatham Lake pier and the Handicap pier at Caney. Motion Mr. Barlow second Mr. Harvey to have 4 launch fee signs for boat ramps. Zoning map was tabled. Talked about getting trash cans for the parking lots was tabled. Buoy replacement was tabled until new buoys arrive. Motion Mr. Barlow second Mr. Harvey to turn price in to the rec. board to see if they would help recover pier at Ebenezer ramp. Motion Mr. Harvey Second Mr. Ponder to approve building permit for Mr. Vines. Motion Mr. Ponder second Mr. Waggoner to adjourn

JACKSON PARISH WATERSHED MINUTES

The Jackson Parish Watershed District met Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 5:00 PM in the Jackson Parish Sports Complex. Present: Mr. Lavelle Smith, Mr. Jimmy Waggoner, Mr. Jay Mallard, Mr. Bert Brown, Mr. Kent Hightower and Mr. Daniel Ponder. Absent: Mr. Roy Barlow.

The invocation was given by Mr. Waggoner.

The Watershed Board welcomed Mr. Kent Hightower as their newest member.

There were no public comments.

Motion Mr. Mallard, seconded Mr. Ponder, to approve the minutes of October 15, 2020. Motion carried.

Motion Mr. Ponder, seconded Mr. Mallard, to pay all bills.

Motion Mr. Hightower, seconded Mr. Mallard, because of the cost, to drop the idea of repairing the Chatham Lake Boat Launch. Motion carried.

Motion Mr. Ponder, seconded Mr. Waggoner, to table the service pole until Entergy determines their help in setting a pole. Motion carried.

Motion Mr. Hightower, seconded Mr. Ponder, to approve three duck blinds for Larry Bates.

Motion Mr. Mallard, seconded Mr. Brown, to remove Mr. Benson Bagwell from the accounts at Peoples Bank and add Mr. Kent Hightower. Motion carried.

Mr. Brown nominated Mr. Smith for president. Mr. Smith agreed to serve as President/Treasurer until the end of his term, which is April 18, 2021.

Mr. Brown agreed to serve as Vice President for the year 2021.

Mr. Waggoner agreed to serve as Secretary for the year 2021.

Motion Mr. Ponder, seconded Mr. Hightower, to adjourn at 5:42 PM. Motion carried.

There is no meeting scheduled in December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

Joynor, Gary

From: Kent Hightower <kent.hightower@westrock.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 5:58 AM
To: Joynor, Gary
Subject: FW: Title 42, Section 1121A

WARNING: External email. Use caution opening files and links.

From: Kent Hightower
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 5:19 AM
To: Lavelle Smith <lavelles154@aol.com>
Subject: RE: Title 42, Section 1121A

I think it would be best to have it in writing to make sure it covers you and us .

From: Lavelle Smith <lavelles154@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 6:45 AM
To: Kent Hightower <kent.hightower@westrock.com>
Subject: Title 42, Section 1121A

EXTERNAL - Use Caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Mr. Hightower,

I talked to an Attorney with the Ethics Board and he referred me to this Statue. So, no money exchanging hands, we should be good. He could not put anything in writing without a written request for an opinion, and that would take about two months.

Lavelle

§1121. Assistance to certain persons after termination of public service

A.(1) No former agency head or elected official shall, for a period of two years following the termination of his public service as the head of such agency or as an elected public official serving in such agency, assist another person, for compensation, in a transaction, or in an appearance in connection with a transaction, involving that agency or render any service on a contractual basis to or for such agency.

(2) No former member of a board or commission shall, for a period of two years following the termination of his public service on such board or commission, contract with, be employed in any capacity by, or be appointed to any position by that board or commission.

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Joynor, Gary

From: Kent Hightower <kent.hightower@westrock.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 9:14 AM
To: lavelles154@aol.com
Cc: Gina Thomas; Joynor, Gary; jimmywaggoner@yahoo.com
Subject: Legal Opinion Request

WARNING: External email. Use caution opening files and links.

Mr. Smith,

Please take this notice that the JPWD is seeking a legal opinion from the Louisiana Board of Ethics regarding you assisting and gathering information for contractors working on any waters in Jackson Parish where JPWD has jurisdiction. A letter will be submitted to the Louisiana Board of Ethics from Jackson Parish Watershed District on January 28th, 2022. I sincerely hope you understand this opinion request is to simply make sure there will be no conflicts that could levy fines against you, the Parish or JPWD.

We kindly ask until we receive the legal opinion from the Board of Ethics that you do not assist any contractors(s) with building permits on the waters in which Jackson Parish Watershed District has jurisdiction. We will notify you immediately once the opinion letter is received and kindly provide you a copy for your records.

Sincerely,

Kent Hightower
President\Jackson Parish Watershed District

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Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance

JACKSON PARISH

POLICE JURY

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WATERSHED DISTRICT

Watershed

The Jackson Parish Watershed District Board was established by the State of Louisiana and is responsible for meeting regularly to review, discuss, and take action on the related business of the watershed throughout Jackson Parish.

REGULAR MEETING DAY:

Third Thursday of every month

MEETING TIME:

5:00 P.M.

MEETING LOCATION:

The Sunshine Room
Jackson Parish Police Jury Administrative Building
160 Industrial Drive, Jonesboro, LA 71251

CONTACT INFORMATION:

359 Hickory Lane
Jonesboro, La. 71251
Phone: (318) 259-8340
Email: kent.hightower@westrock.com

BOARD MEMBERS & TERMS:


District 1: Gary Joyner (Term: 5/10/2021 - 12/31/2022)
District 2: Jimmy Woggoner (Term: 8/10/2020 - 12/31/2023)
District 7: Wes Harvey (Term: 1/19/2020 - 12/31/2022)
District 4: VACANCY (Term: 3/08/2021 - 12/31/2022)
District 5: Kent Hightower (District 3) (Term: 04/12/2021 - 12/31/2024) **Chairman**
District 6: Roy Barlow (Term: 5/14/2018 - 5/14/2022)
District 7: Daniel Ponder (Term: 3/3/2017 - 12/31/2021)

TERMS:

There is one (1) representative appointed by the Police Jury from each of the seven districts. Terms are for four (4) years.

View current and upcoming meetings, agendas, and minutes *here*.

Supporting Documents

-  Louisiana Revised Statute Establishing the Jackson Parish Watershed District (94 KB)

Contact Information

Jackson Parish Court House
160 Industrial Drive
Jonesboro, LA 71251

[View Full Contact Details](#)



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Jackson Parish Police Jury Administrative Building, 160 Industrial Drive, Jonesboro, LA 71251

MONROE

Gary Joynor

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